

LIS007348688B1

(12) United States Patent

Stamps et al.

(10) Patent No.: US 7,348,688 B1

(45) **Date of Patent:** *Mar. 25, 2008

(54) LOW POWER, SCALABLE MULTICHANNEL HIGH VOLTAGE CONTROLLER

- (75) Inventors: James Frederick Stamps, Livermore, CA (US); Robert Ward Crocker, Fremont, CA (US); Daniel Dadwa Yee, Dublin, CA (US); David Wright Dils, Fort Worth, TX (US)
- (73) Assignee: Sandia Corporation, Livermore, CA
- (*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 41 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

- (21) Appl. No.: 11/330,269
- (22) Filed: Jan. 10, 2006

Related U.S. Application Data

- (62) Division of application No. 10/454,179, filed on Jun. 3, 2003, now Pat. No. 7,012,342.
- (51) **Int. Cl. H02J 1/00** (2006.01)
- (52) **U.S. Cl.** 307/29; 307/39

(56) References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4 994 953	Α	*	2/1991	Haak	307/82

5,800,690	A	*	9/1998	Chow et al	204/51
6,219,623	B1	*	4/2001	Wills	307/45
6,754,835	B2	*	6/2004	Bandholz et al	307/64
2005/0267662	A1	*	12/2005	Fisher et al	701/45

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner—Jessica Han (74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Charles H. Jew; Timothy P. Evans

(57) ABSTRACT

A low voltage control circuit is provided for individually controlling high voltage power provided over bus lines to a multitude of interconnected loads. An example of a load is a drive for capillary channels in a microfluidic system. Control is distributed from a central high voltage circuit, rather than using a number of large expensive central high voltage circuits to enable reducing circuit size and cost. Voltage is distributed to each individual load and controlled using a number of high voltage controller channel switches connected to high voltage bus lines. The channel switches each include complementary pull up and pull down photo isolator relays with photo isolator switching controlled from the central high voltage circuit to provide a desired bus line voltage. Switching of the photo isolator relays is further controlled in each channel switch using feedback from a resistor divider circuit to maintain the bus voltage swing within desired limits. Current sensing is provided using a switched resistive load in each channel switch, with switching of the resistive loads controlled from the central high voltage circuit.

4 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

